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DOCTOR 2099

2099



DIRECT EDITION

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DICTATOR FOR LIFE

I THOUGHT YOU'D  
WANT TO SEE THIS,  
DOOM.

I DOWNLOADED AND SURFED THROUGH SOME STRAY  
FILES FROM THIS ALCHEMAX WISE GUY, JORDAN BOONE.  
WAS HE EVER THEIR GOLDEN BOY? HE GOT A PRACTICALLY  
UNLIMITED BUDGET TO WORK UP SOMETHING CALLED  
"VIRTUAL UNREALITY."

BEFORE HE PARTED  
COMPANY WITH 'EM,  
HE MUST'VE TRIED  
TO LINK THAT  
PROJECT WITH  
CYBERSPACE!

"VIRTUAL UNREALITY"  
"CYBERSPACE."

THE WORLD IS NOT ONLY  
STRANGER THAN WE KNOW, IT  
IS STRANGER THAN WE  
CAN KNOW.

ALL TO THE GOOD.  
KNOWLEDGE IS POWER, AND  
I EXPLOIT IGNORANCE.

WHAT ANOMALY LED YOU  
TO BELIEVE SOMETHING  
CHANGED IN CYBERSPACE?

HIM, I TAKE IT?

WHO IS HE? WHO WOULD  
CHOOSE TO REPRESENT HIM-  
SELF AS A RAGGED BEGGAR  
IF THEY COULD BE ANYTHING  
THEY WANTED ON THE NET?

THAT'S NOT A CHOICE, IT'S A  
LITERAL REPRESENTATION. HE'S WHAT  
HE SEEMS TO BE -- A MAN FROM  
BEFORE THE DARK AGES... OR AT  
LEAST, HIS ICON.

QUESTION IS, DOOM, HOW  
COULD A FEEB LIKE THAT  
ACCESS THIS PLACE? NOT  
MANY SILICON CHIPS IN A  
BALE OF HAY.

DON'T SPEAK  
SO SOON.  
THE MARKS  
ON HIS FACE  
INDICATE THAT  
IN HIS CULTURE...  
HE WAS A  
PRINCE. USE  
YOUR GLOBAL  
ACCESS TO  
ADDRESS  
HIM.

YOU... THE  
ONE CALLED  
"DOOM!"

YOU ARE THE  
ONE I HAVE  
COME SO FAR  
TO FIND.

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WHAT DO YOU  
NEED OF ME?

IT IS NOT WHAT  
I NEED, IT IS WHAT  
THE WORLD NEEDS  
FROM YOU.

DEMANDS  
OF YOU.

YOU BEAR AN  
IRON HAND. PERHAPS IT  
IS SYMBOLIC OF THE IRON  
HAND YOU MUST WIELD!

CRETIN!  
PRETENDER TO  
THE THRONE!  
HOW DARE  
YOU SPEAK TO  
THIS MAN OF  
WHAT HE "MUST"  
DO! YOU ARE NOT  
FIT TO SHINE  
HIS BOOTS!

LET  
HIM  
SPEAK  
INSTEAD  
TO A PEER...  
ATTILA,  
GREATEST  
OF THE  
HUNG!

TRULY...  
I SEE  
MYSELF  
REFLECTED  
IN YOU!



C'EST MOI, YOUR  
EMPEROR,  
NAPOLEON THE  
FIRST!

T'SING DAO,  
GENGHIS  
THE KHAN!

AND I  
ALEXANDER,  
WHO WEPT WHEN  
THERE WERE NO  
MORE WORLDS  
TO CONQUER!

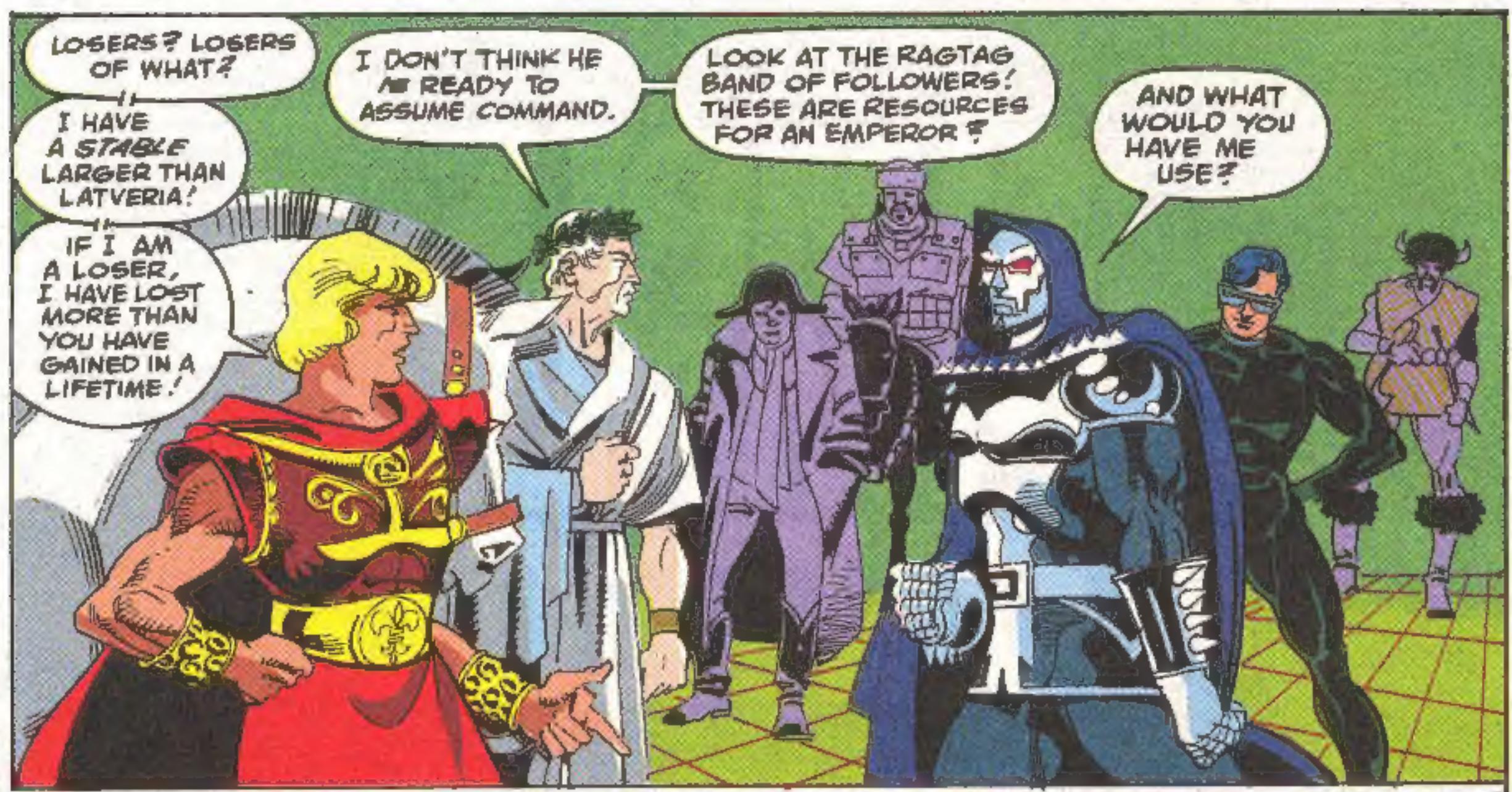
YOU DON'T  
KNOW THE  
MEANING OF  
TEARS,  
WHELP.

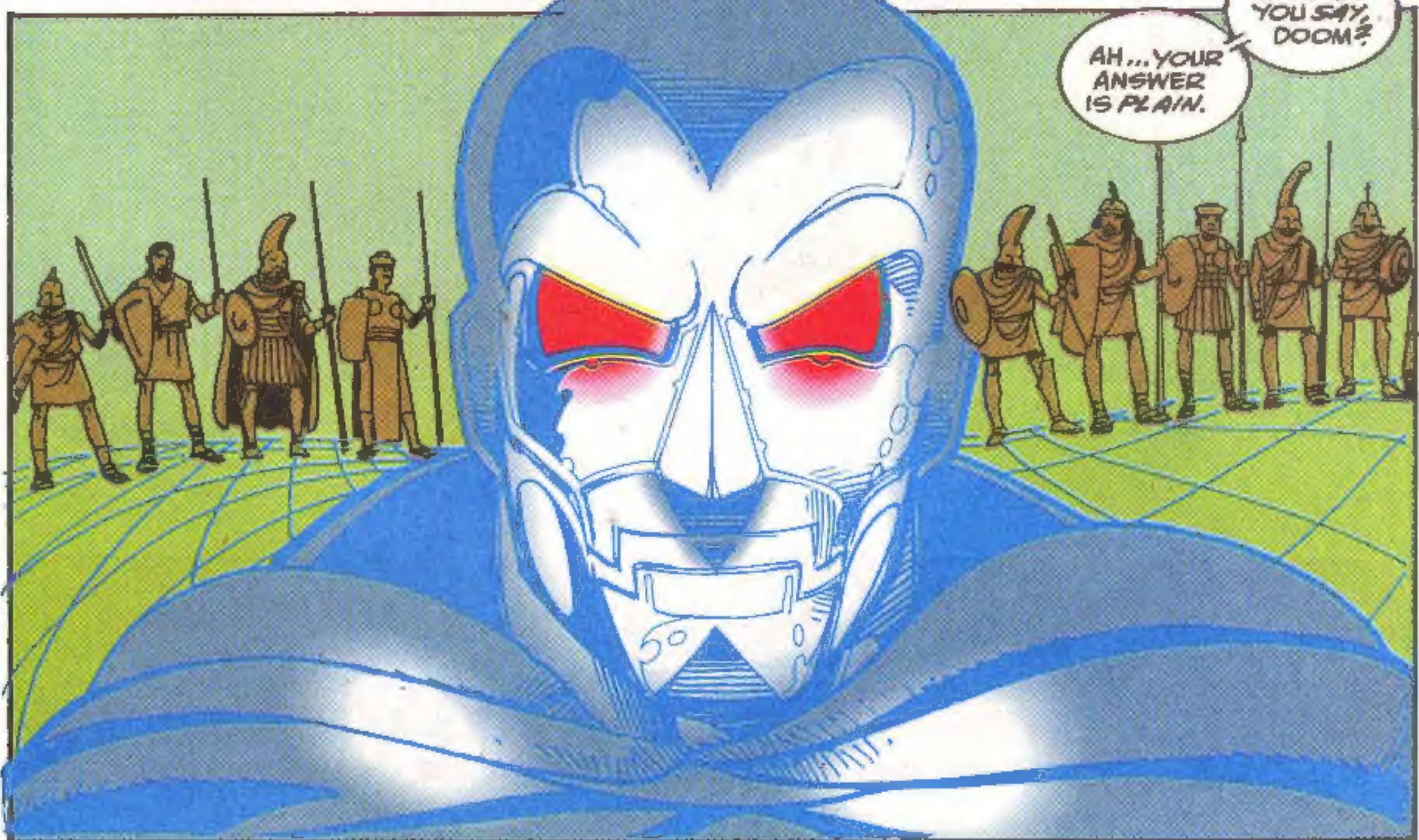
ET TU,  
DOOM? WILL YOU  
REFUSE OUR  
HELP IN  
GAINING  
THE  
GREATEST  
POWER  
OF ALL?

COME, COME.  
EVEN BEHIND  
THAT STEEL  
MASK, YOUR  
THOUGHTS, YOUR  
FEELINGS ARE  
BETRAYED. YOU  
ARE IMPRESSED  
AREN'T YOU?

EVEN A  
BIT...  
HUMBLED?

BY WHAT? AN  
ASSEMBLAGE OF  
HISTORY'S GREATEST  
LOSERS?





NOT NEARLY AS PLAIN AS YOUR REASON FOR  
THE GENEROUS OFFER.

LET ME  
ELUCIDATE.



SHAKESPEARE  
SAID "THE EVIL MEN  
DO LIVES AFTER THEM...  
THE GOOD IS OFT INTERR'D  
WITH THEIR BONES."

EVEN THE MOST  
DISPOTIC OF LEADERS  
BROUGHT SWEEPING  
CHANGE TO THE REPUBLICS  
THEY SUBJUGATED.

ALTHOUGH WE WROTE  
HISTORY IN BLOOD, TOO  
EASILY IT WAS WIPE AWAY!  
WE LIVED BY THE SWORD... AND  
THE CHANGES WE BROUGHT  
DIED BY THE SAME SWORD!

NO MATTER WHO  
BUILT THE LIBRARY OF  
ALEXANDRIA... IT WAS  
DESTROYED BY VANDALS  
NONETHELESS...

I MYSELF  
BROUGHT A NEW  
WORD FOR DEFEAT  
INTO THE LANGUAGE...  
THE DAY OF THE  
BATTLE OF  
WATERLOO.

BUT NOW IS A CRITICAL  
TIDE IN THE AFFAIRS OF MEN  
IN 2099. THERE IS GREAT DISORDER  
UNDER HEAVEN, AND THE  
SITUATION IS EXCELLENT FOR  
A MAN LIKE DOOM.

NOW COMES THE OPPORTUNITY  
TO LAY DOWN LAWS AND VALUES  
OF... PERFECTION THAT WILL STAND  
FOR ALL TIME. SUCH AN UNDERTAKING  
MUST HAVE THE WORLD'S  
GREATEST CAPTAIN AT ITS  
HELM.

THE  
GREATEST?



FAR BE IT FROM ME  
TO ARGUE.

IF DESTINY BECKONS  
EVEN HERE IN THIS  
ENDLESS EXPANSE,  
WHO AM I TO IGNORE  
THE CALL?

DO YOU KNOW  
WHAT YOU'RE  
LETTING YOURSELF  
IN FOR? IT'S  
ONE THING TO  
RULE THE  
WORLD...

...BUT "THE WORLD"  
IS DEFINED AS A MUCH  
BIGGER PLACE THAN WHEN  
ANY OF THESE GENTLEMEN  
TRIED TO CONQUER IT  
WITH MERE ARMIES.

THE TERRITORY  
OF CYBERSPACE, THE  
REALM OF THE MYSTIC,  
THE DIMENSIONS JORDAN  
BOONE LINKED UP TO IN  
VIRTUAL UNREALITY, THE  
NANOTECH SPHERE, TO  
SAY NOTHING OF  
SPACE...

THE GLOBE  
MAY HAVE GROWN  
SMALLER IN 2099...BUT  
THE UNIVERSE...

THE  
UNIVERSE INDEED,  
WIRE.

THE UNIVERSE CONTINUES  
TO EXPAND.

BETTER TO EXPAND ONE'S  
HORIZONS WITH IT, NO?

GENTLEMEN... WHEREVER THE  
ROAD HEADS... WHATEVER  
THE CHALLENGE...



**DOOM WILL LEAD!!!**



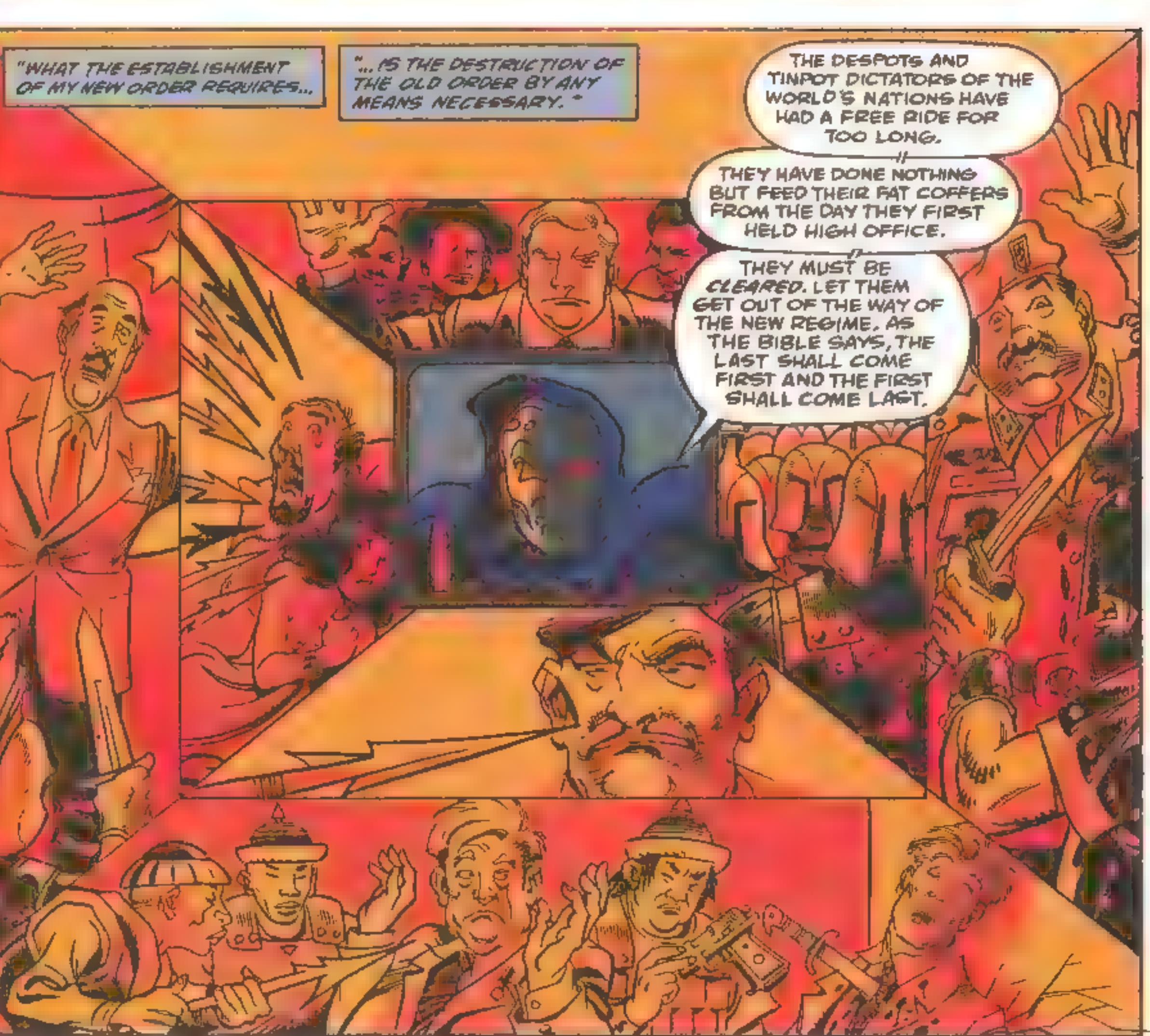
"WHAT THE ESTABLISHMENT  
OF MY NEW ORDER REQUIRES..."

"...IS THE DESTRUCTION OF  
THE OLD ORDER BY ANY  
MEANS NECESSARY."

THE DESPOTS AND  
TINPOT DICTATORS OF THE  
WORLD'S NATIONS HAVE  
HAD A FREE RIDE FOR  
TOO LONG.

THEY HAVE DONE NOTHING  
BUT FEED THEIR FAT COFFERS  
FROM THE DAY THEY FIRST  
HELD HIGH OFFICE.

THEY MUST BE  
CLEARED. LET THEM  
GET OUT OF THE WAY OF  
THE NEW REGIME. AS  
THE BIBLE SAYS, THE  
LAST SHALL COME  
FIRST AND THE FIRST  
SHALL COME LAST.



"...FOR THE TIMES,  
THEY ARE  
A-CHANGIN'!"

WHAT?

SO WHAT DO  
YOU DO WITH THESE  
GUYS WHO USED TO  
BE RUNNING THE  
SHOW?

NOTHING. SOME OLD TUNE DUKE  
STRATOSPHERE USED TO BE FOND OF.  
NEVER UNDERSTOOD IT MYSELF.



BY THE WAY... YOU WILL ADDRESS ME AS "EMPEROR" OR "YOUR HIGHNESS." IS THAT CLEAR?

C-CLEAR AS A SCHEMATIC, DO-- YOUR HIGHNESS,

BUT WHY ARE YOU SO EAGER TO SEE THESE LEADERS KILLED?

CERTAINLY NOT BECAUSE THEY POSE A THREAT TO YOU?

"CERTAINLY NOT" IS CORRECT.

"FIRST, WE ELIMINATE THE CRIMINAL CLASS."

"THEY WERE A BURDEN ON THE OLD SOCIETY."

"THEY WILL NOT BRING DOWN THE NEXT ONE. MY NEXT ONE!"

"NEXT, THERE IS THE MILITARY, STEEPED IN TRADITION, A TRADITION THAT HAS OUTLIVED ITS USEFULNESS AND CANNOT SEE PAST ITS ORIGINAL PURPOSE!"

I HAVE GIVEN MY LIFE TO THE SERVICE! I DEMAND A MILITARY EXECUTION! A FIRING SQUAD!

DO YOU SEE WHAT I MEAN?

"HANG HIM."

BUT, OOO—EMPEROR DOOM... ALL THESE MEN... ALL THESE LIVES...



...ARE EXPENDABLE IN 2099.

WHY DO YOU FEEL FOR THEM, WIRE? WHAT GRINDING WHEELS HAVE I SET IN MOTION THAT SOCIETY HAS NOT?

THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE FATE I OFFER THEM, AND THE ONE POLITE SOCIETY PROFFERS, IS THE SPEED AT WHICH IT ARRIVES.

LIKE CAESAR, LIKE NAPOLEON, LIKE HAMMURABI, I NOW PROCLAIM A NEW AND PERFECT UNIVERSAL SYSTEM OF LAW.

THESE JUDGES, BECAUSE OF THEIR HUMAN NATURE, CANNOT APPROACH THE IMPARTIALITY THEY PRETEND.

JUSTICE IS NOT BLIND TO THEM. THEY SEE CLASS AND RACE TOO CLEARLY.



COMPUTERS, PROGRAMMED WITH EVERY LEGAL PRECEDENT, USE THE BEST OF HUMAN REASON, WHILE AFFECTING MACHINE-LIKE PRECISION.

THEY WILL TRY CAGES ON THE DATA THEY ARE FED... THAT IS, THE MERITS OF THE CASE.

THESE JUDGES WILL BE...SUMMARILY DISMISSED.



AND THE MILITARY? HOW DO YOU KEEP THEM FROM RISING UP AGAINST YOU?

HOW DO YOU KEEP A GENERAL FROM THINKING HE CAN RUN THINGS BETTER THAN...THE EMPEROR?

BY ELIMINATING THEM ENTIRELY!

GETTING RID OF THE MILITARY? HOW?

BY FIRST ELIMINATING BORDERS.

BORDERS ARE AN EVIL. BORDERS ARE THE REASON MEN SIGN UP TO FIGHT AND DIE. BORDERS INSPIRE THE FOOLISH PRIDE OF NATIONALISM. TOO MANY HAVE DIED PROTECTING BORDERS!

UNDER MY REIGN, THE MAP WILL BE REDRAWN. ALL BORDERS ELIMINATED. THERE WILL BE BUT ONE HOMELAND!

MINE!

GENTLEMEN... WE HAVE PLACED OUR TRUST IN THE RIGHT MAN.

WE... ALL OF US... HAVE MADE OUR OWN BORDERS. THROUGH TIME, WE DECIDED WHERE THE MARKERS WERE TO BE PLACED.

WE HAD NOT THE MEANS TO PLACE OUR BANNER AT ULTIMA THULE.

A WORLD UNITED UNDER ONE FLAG! IT CAN BE DONE! IT IS MY WILL!



ONE OF OUR GENERALS APPEARS ON THE HORIZON. HIS REPORT WILL CHANGE YOUR THINKING, WHELP!

AS YOU COMMAND, EMPEROR DOOM... SO SHALL IT BE!

A WORLD PACIFIED AT LAST... BROUGHT TO HEEL BENEATH ONE BANNER... SO SHALL IT BE!



WHY SHOULD ONLY THE  
WARRIORs OF HISTORY  
DECIDE THE FUTURE...

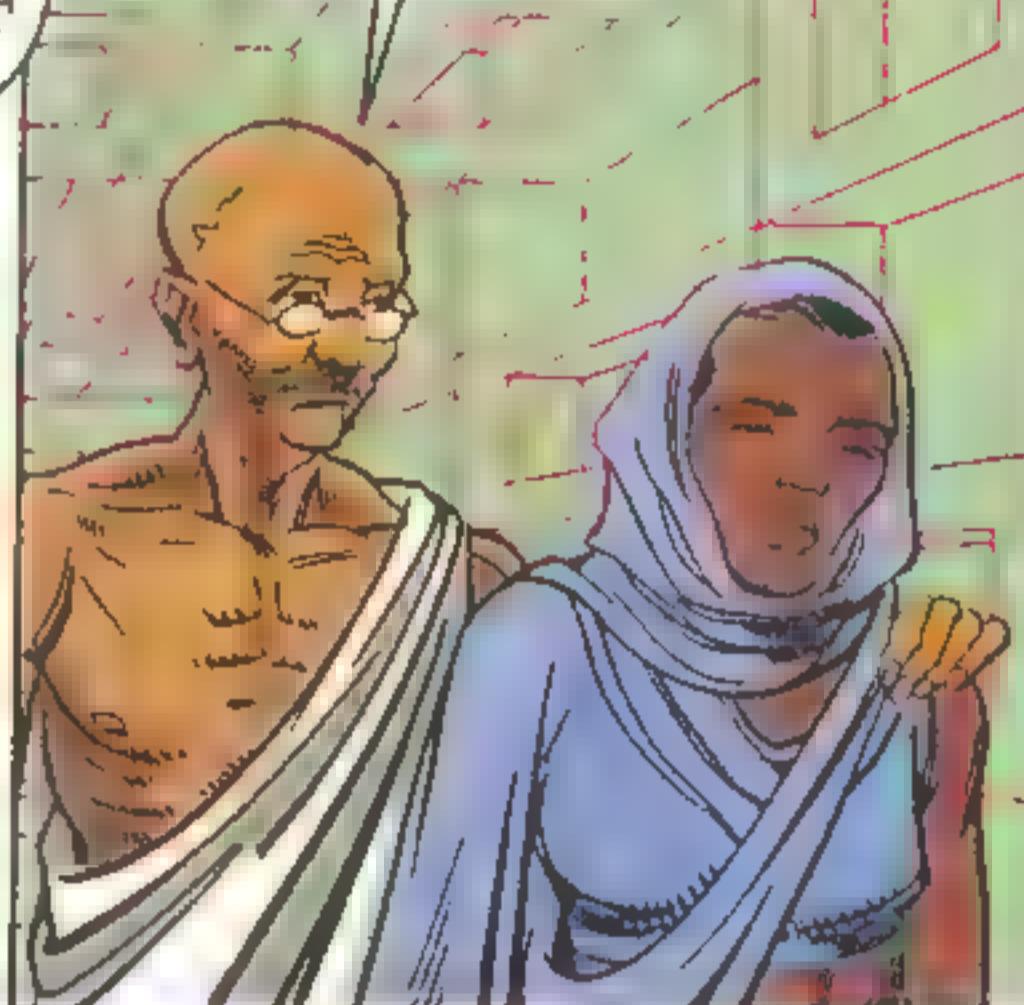
...WHEN IT NEEDS  
PHILOSOPHERS?

NEED? WHO AMONG US CAN  
SAY WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS?

DO ANY OF US  
REALLY KNOW?

ALL I  
KNOW IS  
HOW MUCH  
I DO NOT  
KNOW.

GIVEN THE EXTENT TO  
WHICH WE'VE BEEN HEEDED  
THROUGH THE AGES, MAN-  
KIND COULD NOT POSSIBLY  
NEED PHILOSOPHY LESS.



THAT'S DEBATABLE. A LITTLE  
PHILOSOPHY INCLINETH MAN'S  
MIND TO ATHEISM, BUT DEPTH IN  
PHILOSOPHY BRINGETH MAN'S MINDS  
ABOUT TO RELIGION.

ON THE  
SUBJECT OF  
RELIGION...

I FURTHER  
BELIEVE THAT--

GUYS!  
GUYS!  
CAN'T I  
GET A  
SIMPLE  
ANSWER  
HERE?

